

HCS HB 2356 -- BOUNDARY COMMISSION DEADLINES

SPONSOR: Haefner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 14 to 0.

Currently, a boundary commission operates on a five-year cycle. This bill reduces the cycle to two years and changes the internal deadlines accordingly. The bill also changes from discretionary to mandatory the provision authorizing the commission, after a map plan submission, to issue written comments regarding each boundary change and unincorporated area map plan to notify proponents of the merits or demerits of the map plan based on planning and public policy considerations

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the five-year cycle is too long. After all the work that goes into a map plan submission, the least the boundary commission can do is explain its reasoning.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Haefner.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that there are three long-term vacancies on the board. This past year, two communities wanted to merge but one of the communities missed the vote cycle because the board could not establish a quorum.

Testifying on the bill was the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis.